

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a zinc-oligopeptide easily absorbable by the body, comprising the steps of:

proteolyzing a suspension of protein in deionized water at a neutral pH range in the presence of a protease to give a mixture of oligopeptides;

chelating zinc ions with the oligopeptides to give a zinc-oligopeptide solution;

concentrating the zinc-oligopeptide solution and drying the concentrate to a powder;

wherein the zinc-oligopeptide possesses a structure as shown in Figure 1.

2. (Currently Amended) A method of preparing a zinc-oligopeptide easily absorbable by the body, comprising the steps of:

preparing a suspension of protein by suspending 100 parts by weight of protein in 800 parts by weight of deionized water,

proteolyzing the protein suspension at pH 3.5-6.0 for 10-12 hours in deionized water in the presence of 2-4 parts by weight of protease to give a mixture of oligopeptides,

chelating zinc ions with the mixture of oligopeptides in a weight ratio of zinc/oligopeptides of 1/1,000 to yield a zinc-oligopeptide solution, and

concentrating the zinc-oligopeptide solution to a solid content of 32-36% and drying to produce a zinc-oligopeptide powder;

wherein the zinc-oligopeptide possesses a structure as shown in Figure 1.

3. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the protein is an animal protein or a vegetable protein.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)